

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2008. Claims 1-18 were pending in the present application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 8, 11, and 17, without adding or canceling any claims, leaving pending in the application claims 1-18. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Murase* (6,285,826) in view of *Takeshi* (US 2007/0109420). Applicants respectfully submit that these references do not teach or suggest each element of these claims.

For example, Applicants' claim 1 as amended recites a recording/reproducing apparatus capable of transmitting information recorded on a record medium to an external device, comprising:

a recording/reproducing circuit which records information on and reproduces information from the record medium;
a first transmitting circuit which transmits the information to a display;
a second transmitting circuit which transmits the information to the external device via an external network to which other external devices are connected; and
a control circuit which controls workings of said recording/reproducing circuit and said first and second transmitting circuits;
wherein said recording/reproducing circuit records multiple instances of path information, each instance of path information including order information defining an order of information to be transmitted to said external device by said second transmitting circuit and destination information, corresponding to the order information, which is used when the information to be transmitted is transmitted to the external device among the other external devices, on said record medium, and reproduces the information from said record medium according to the order information included in an instance of the path information, and
wherein said second transmitting circuit transmits the information reproduced by the recording/reproducing circuit, according to the order information included in an instance of the path information, to said external device using the corresponding destination information included in the same instance of path information

(emphasis added). Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by these references.

For example, *Murase* teaches an optical disc storing an audio/visual (AV) stream including at least one video or image stream, as well as management information for managing the AV stream (Col. 6, lines 23-34). As recognized in the Office Action on page 3, *Murase* does

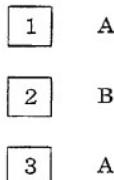
not teach or suggest "an external network to which other external devices are connected and destination information which is recorded and used when the information to be transmitted is transmitted to the external device among other external devices."

The Office Action cites *Takeshi* as teaching such a limitation in the same field of endeavor. Applicants respectfully submit that, even if for sake of argument there were motivation to combine *Takeshi* with *Murase*, the combination would still not arrive at Applicants' claims as amended. *Takeshi* teaches an electronic pickup camera which uses wireless image data transmission to store the image data in an external storage device when the camera is in a non-pickup state (paragraph [0021]). It is respectfully submitted, however, that *Takeshi* teaches destination information that corresponds not to order information, as recited in the claims as amended, but to specific instances of image data. This is an important distinction.

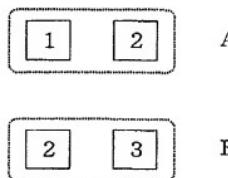
In *Takeshi*, each instance of image data is transmitted to only one external device, as each instance of image data corresponds to only one destination as defined by the destination information. On the other hand, in Applicants' claims, an instance of data can be transmitted to several external devices as specified by the order information and corresponding destination information. The difference can be highlighted using the following example:

- In *Takeshi*, image data 1, 2, and 3 each would correspond to either destination A or B
- In Applicants' claims, the order information for image data 1 and 2 can correspond to destination information for destination A, and the order information for image data 2 and 3 can correspond to destination information for destination B

Takeshi



Applicants' claims



Thus, *Takeshi* does not provide advantages obtained by the Applicants' claims as amended. Further, as *Murase* also fails to teach or suggest such limitations, and as there is no motivation in the references to provide such functionality, a combination of *Takeshi* and *Murase* cannot render Applicants' claims obvious.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the §103 rejections with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

II. Amendment to the Claims

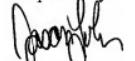
Unless otherwise specified or addressed in the remarks section, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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